United Nations A/62/763–S/2008/199

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 March 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 11
Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 24 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the imposition of unilateral sanctions against the Republic of Belarus, adopted on Thursday, 20 March 2008 (see annex).

Furthermore, I request that the above-mentioned document be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 11, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

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Annex to the letter dated 24 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the imposition of unilateral sanctions against the Republic of Belarus

20 March 2008

The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement recalls the Final Document of the fourteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, in which the solidarity among Non-Aligned Movement countries was explicitly reiterated with regard to unilateral economic sanctions in paragraph 16.4, where the Heads of State or Government agreed to refrain from recognizing, adopting or implementing extraterritorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on non-aligned countries — threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment — and prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, where they constitute flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States.

In this context the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement expresses its grave concern over the decision announced by a United Nations Member State to impose economic sanctions against the Republic of Belarus, a State member of the Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty (resolution 2131 (XX)), the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (resolution 2625 (XXV)), and the resolution on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries (62/183).

The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates the need to eliminate the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade. The Movement urges States that have applied and continue to apply such laws and measures to refrain from promulgating and applying them in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.